Development of Kumarakom Tourist Centre, Kerala

4119. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala submitted any project for developing Kumarakom Tourist Centre of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is true that the Prime Minister offered certain projects to develop the Kumarakom Tourist Centre; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Development and promotion of a tourist place/centre is primarily undertaken by the State Government/UT Administration concerned. However, Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with them. No proposal for development of Kumarakom as Tourist Centre of Kerala has been prioritised during 2001-2002. However, a project for preparation of Masterplans for Special Tourism Zones of Kovalam, Munnar and Kumarakom has been prioritised for Rs. 40.00 lakhs during the current financial year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Hon'ble Prime Minister has offered a Special Project for development of Backwater Tourism in Kerala.

(d) A proposal from Government of Kerala for preparing a Master Plan for Development of Kumarakom and Venvanad Kayal was received by the Planning Commission at a cost of Rs. 1.00 crore in August, 2000 as a package comprising eight projects. A sum of Rs. 1.00 crore has been sanctioned as Additional Central Assistance to the State Government under Planning Commission's Project Preparation Facility subject to the requirement of the State Government seeking appropriate advice from the Ministry of Tourism regarding scope of study, time frame and consultancy charges. An amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs has been released by the Planning Commission in March, 2001. In addition the Department of Tourism have sanctioned the following specific proposals for the development of Kumarakom :

Year	Particulars	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount Released (Rs. in Lakhs)
1995-96	Wayside Amenities	20.82	11.00
1999-2000	Tourist Ayurvedic Health Centre	7.50	2.25

Decrease in foreign tourist arrival in Jammu and Kashmir, NE Region, Gujarat and Rajasthan

4120. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the arrival of foreign tourist in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, North-Eastern Region, Gujarat and Rajasthan have decreased during the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 so far compared to the corresponding years;

(b) if so; the reasons therefor, and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) According to the information received from State Governments, there has been a positive growth in the visits of foreign tourists in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and North-Eastern Region in the year 2000 as compared to the year 1999. In Jammu & Kashmir, there was a decline in the visits of foreign tourists in the same period. There has been a positive growth in the visits of foreign tourists in Jammu & Kashmir and Assam upto July 2001 as compared to the corresponding period of the year 2000. Figures for the year 2001 in respect of other States are not available.

(b) The decline in the visits of foreign tourists during the year 2000 in the State of Jammu and Kashmir was due to the prevailing conditions in the State.

(c) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has deployed Tourist Police for round the clock vigil over tourist resorts, hotels, tourist spots and routes leading to tourist resorts etc. The interest of tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir is also protected by a special legislation called Jammu and Kashmir Registration of Tourist Trade Act.